Wit and Mirth,

Being 113 pleasant Tales and witty Iests.

Chargeably collected out of
Taverns, Ordinaries, Inns, Bowling Greens, and Allies, Alehouses, Tobacco-shops, Highwayes, and Water-passages.

Made vp and fashioned into
Clinches, Bulls, Quirks, Yerks, Quips, and Ierks.

Apothegmatically bundled vp and garbled at the request of old *Iohn Garret*: Ghost.

By *Iohn Taylor*, water-Poet.

LONDON:
Printed for *Iames Boler*, dwelling at the *Marigold* in *Pauls* Church-yard, 1635.

To the truely Loyall-hearted, learned, well-accomplished Gentleman, *Mr. Archibald Rankin.*

SIR,

BEing injoyned by the Ghost or *Genius* of old *Iohn Garret* (a man well knowne and beloved) to collect, gleane, or gather a bundle or trusse of Mirth, and for his sake to bestrow the stage of the Melancholy world withit; and withall to present it to some one generous spirit, who was old *Iohns* friend; I thought upon many to whom I might have made my Dedication who were both Royall, Honorable, Worshipfull, and

all well-affected towards him: As to mention one for all, that Jewell of the world, and richeſt Jem of her ſex, that Magazine of the two ineſtimable Jewels, *Patience* and *Fortitude*; to that illuſtrious peerleſſe Princeſſe I might have recommended it, to whoſe ſervice, and for whoſe happineſſe, his life and beſt endevors, with his prayers and implorations at his death, were unfeinedly conſecrated. But my manners conceiving the ſubject of this Booke, of altogether too triviall a nature to bee ſheltred under the ſhadow of the wings of tranſcendent and admired Majeſty; I ſtept ſo many ſteps downe the ſtaires with my invention, where by good fortune I met with you, whom I knew did love that old honeſt mirror of mirth, deceaſed: and whom the world better knowes, are a true devoted friend to honeſt harmeleſſe mirth and laudable recreation.

I therefore intreat you, that (when your

your more ſerious affaires will permit) you would beſtow the looking upon theſe my poore & beggarly wardrobe of witty Ieſts, whom I dare not call *Apothegmes*.

And becauſe I had many of them by relation and heare-ſay, I am in doubt that ſome of them may bee in print in ſome other Authors, which I do aſſure you is more than I doe know, which if it be ſo, I pray you but to connive or tolerate, and let the Authors make twice as bold with meat any time.

Thus wiſhing every one to mend one, whereby the rent and torne garments of Threed-bare Time may bee well and merrily patched & repaired, craving your pardon, with my beſt wiſhes, I remaine

Yours ever in the
beſt of my beſt
ſtudies hereof,

IOHN TAYLOR.

Iohn Garrets Ghoſt.

THe doores and windowes
of the heauens were barr'd,
And Nights blacke Curtaine
like an Ebon Robe,
From earth did all Celeſtiall light diſcard,
And in ſad darkneſſe clad the ample Globe;
Dead midnight came, the Cats 'gan catterwaule,
The time when ghoſts and goblins walke about;
Bats flye, Owles ſhrick, and diſmal Dogs doe bawle,
Whiles conſcience cleare ſecurely ſleeps it out.
At ſuch a time I ſleeping in my bed,
A viſion ſtrange appear'd unto my ſight,
Amazement all my ſenſes overſpread,
And fill'd me full with terror and affright.
A merry graue aſpect me thought he had,
And one he ſeem'd that *I* had often ſeene:
Yet was he in ſuch uncouth ſhape yclad,
That what he was I could not wiſtly weene.
His cloake was Sacke, but not the Sacke *of Spaine*,
Canara, Mallago, or ſprightfull Sherry,
But made of ſack-cloth, ſuch as beares the grain
Good ſalt, and coles, which make the Porter weare
Lac'd round about with platted wheaten ſtraw,
For which he nothing to the Silkman owes:
A wearing never mentiond in the Law,
And yet farre off like good gold hee it ſhowes.

Iohn Garrets Ghost.

Lin'd was his mantle with good Essex plush,
Pyde Calues skins, or Veale sattin, which you will;
It neuer was worne thred-bare with a brush,
It (naturally) sau'd the labour still
A hat like *Grantham* steeple for the crowne,
Or Piramide was large in altitude:
With frugall brim, whereby he still was knowne
From other men amongst a multitude.
A princes shooe, he for a iewell wore,
Two ribbonds, and a feather in his beauer,
Which shape me thought I oft had seene before,
Yet out of knowledge where, as't had been neuer.
He in his hand a flaming torch did hold,
(And as he neerer did approch to me,)
My hayre'gan stand on end, feare strucke me cold,
Feare not, I am *Iohn Garrets* ghost, quoth he,
I come to rouse thy dull and lazy Muse
From idlenesse, from Lethe's hatefull lake:
And therefore stand vpon no vaine excuse,
But rise, and to thy tooles thy selfe betake.
Remember me although my carkasse rot,
Write of me, to me, call me Foole or Iester.
But yet I pray thee (*Taylor*) ranke me not
Among those knaves that doe the world bepester:
Thou wrot'st of Great *Otoole*, and *Coriat*,
Of brave Sir *Thomas Parsons*, Knight o'th Sunne,
And *Archy* hath thy verse to glory at,
And yet for me thou nought hast ever done.
[illegible]rise that in *Ireland*, I in *Mars* his trayne,
[illegible]ong time did vnder noble *Norris* serve:
[illegible]here (as I could) I stood gainst Pope and *Spaine*,
Whilst some were slain, & some with want did starve,
Where shot, and wounds, & knocks I gave & tooke,
Vntill at last halfe maimed as *I* was,

A

Iohn Garrets Ghoſt.

A man decrepit, I thoſe wars forſooke,
And (with my *Paſſe*) did to my Countrey paſſe.
Where getting health, I then ſhooke hands with death,
And to the Court I often made reſort,
Where *Englands* mighty Queene *Elizabeth*
Allow'd me entertainment for diſport.
Then by the foretop did I take old Time:
Then were not halfe ſo many fooles as now,
Then was my harueſt and my onely prime,
My purſe receiuing what my wit did plow.
Then in ſuch compaſſe I my ieſts would hold,
That though I gaue a man a gird or twaine,
All his reuenge would be to giue me gold,
With commendation of my nimble braine.
Thus liu'd I till that gracious Queene deceaſt,
Who was ſucceeded by a famous King:
In whoſe bleſt Sons reigne (I with yeares oppreſt)
Me to my graue, ſickneſſe and death did bring.
And now (kind *Iacke*) thou ſeeſt my ayrie forme
Hath (hauen) eſcap'd her iayle of fleſh and bone,
Whil'ſt they remaine the feaſt of many a worme,
My better part doth viſit thee alone.
And as betweene vs ſtill, our good requeſts,
Thou neuer me, I neuer thee deny'd:
So for my ſake collect ſome merry ieſts,
Whereby ſad time may be with mirth ſupply'd.
And when tis written, find ſome good man forth,
One (as thou think'ſt) was when I liu'd my friend:
And though thy lines may be but little worth,
Yet vnto him my duty recommend,
So farwell *Iacke*, done *Luna* 'gins to riſe,
The twinckling ſtarres begin to borrow light:
Remember this my ſuit I thee aduiſe,
And ſo once more good honeſt *Iacke* goodnight.

With

With that, more ſwifter than a ſhaft from bow,
He cut and curried through the empty ayre,
Whilſt I amaz'd with feare, as cold as ſnow,
Straight felt my ſpirits quickly to repaire.
And though I found it but a dreame indeed,
Yet for his ſake of whom I dreamed then,
I left my bed and cloath'd my ſelfe with ſpeed,
And preſently betooke me to my pen:
Cleare was the morne, and *Phœbus* lent me light,
And (as it followeth) I began to write.

VVit and Mirth.

(1.)

My selfe carried on old fellow by water, that had wealth enough to be Deputy of the Ward, and wit sufficient for a Scauenger; the water being somewhat rough, hee was much afraid, and (instead of saying his prayers) he threatned me, that if I did drowne him, he would spend a hundred pound, but hee would see me hanged for it; I desired him to be quiet and feare nothing, and so in little space I landed him at the Beares Colledge on the Bankside, alias Paris Garden; Well (said hee) I am glad I am off the water, for if the Boat had miscarried, I could haue swum no more than a Goose.

(2) An

(2)

A old Painter (at the repairing of a Church) was writing sentences of Scripture upon the walls: by chance a friend of mine came into the Church, and reading them perceived much falſe English: Old man, said my friend, why do you not write true English? Alas Sir, (quoth the Painter) they are poor ſimple people in this Parish, and they will not goe to the coſt of it.

(3)

TWo men being ſet at a Table, one againſt the other, the one of them having a cup in his hand, drank to the other, ſaying, Here Oppoſite, I will drinke to you: Oppoſite, ſaid the other (being angry) what is that? I would not have thee put any of thy nicknames upon me, for thou ſhalt well know that I am no more oppoſite then thy ſelfe, or the ſkinne betweene thy browes.

(4)

A wealthy Monſieur in France, (having profound revenues, and ſhal-

low

how braine) was told by his man that hee did continually gape in his sleep: at which he was angry with his man, saying, hee would not beleeue it: his man verified it to be true, his master said that he would never beleeue any that told him so, except (quoth hee) I chance to see it with mine owne eyes: and therefore I will haue a great Looking-glasse hanged at my beds feet for the purpose, to try whether thou art a lying knaue or not.

(5)

The said Monsieur commanded his man to buy him a gray hat, with a button in the brim to button it vp behind: his man bought him one, & brought him, he put it on his head with the button before, which when hee looked in the glasse and saw, he was very angry, saying, thou crosse vntoward knaue, did not bid thee buy a hat with the button to hold it vp behind, & thou hast brought mee one that turnes vp before: I commaund thee once more go thy wayes, and buy me such a one as I would haue, whatsoeuer it cost me.

(6) The

(6)

The same Gallant as hee travelled, would have a Goose to his Supper, which when she was rosted and brought to the Table, he said thee stanke: not so, I hope, said the Host, it cannot be, for I am sure she was alive since you came into the house: That may be, quoth the Monsieur, but then I am sure that you kild her when she was shiting, she would never stinke so else.

(7)

A Gentlewoman tall Gentlewoman was riding behind a very short little man, so that the mans head reached no higher than her breast, which the aforesaid Monsieur perceiving, said, Madam you should stride a great deale better, if you put your legge over that same pummell of your saddle.

Another time he chanced to meet a Lady of his acquaintance, and asked her how she did, and how her good Husband fared; at which word she wept, saying, that her Husband was in heaven; in heaven, quoth he, it is the first time that I heard of it, and I am sorry for it with all my heart.

(8) Once

(8)

ONce the said Monsieur saw a fellow that had a Jack-Daw to sell: Sirra quoth he, what wilt thou take for thy daw: Monsieur (said the fellow) the price of my Daw is two French Crownes. Wherefore (said the other) dost thou aske so much for him? the fellow replyed, that the Daw could speake French, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, and Latine; all which tongues he will speak after he is a little acquainted in your Lordships house; Well, quoth hee, bring thy Daw in and there is thy money. In conclusion, Jack Daw (after a month or five weeks time) never spake otherwise then his fathers speech Kaw, Kaw: whereat the Monsieur said, that the knave had cozened him of his mony; but it is no matter, there is no great losse in it: for, quoth he, though my Daw do not speake, yet I am in good hope that he thinks the more.

(9)

ANother time he commanded his man to buy some sweet thing to burne in his Chamber, for (quoth he) my Chamber stinkes most odoriferously. His man brought Frankincense in a paper, and as he

he was going for Ace, his master tasted of it, and finding it sticke in his teeth, and relish very bitter, he called his man cozening knaue, that would bring him such bitter trash for his money; and straightwayes commanded him to buy a pound of the best sugar, and burne it straight to sweeten and perfume his Chamber.

(10)

THis Gallant in his youth was much addicted to dicing, and many times when he had lost all his money, then hee would pawne his cloake, and so goe home without either cloak or coyne, which grieued the Lady his mother very much: for remedy whereof, she caused al his doublets (of what stuffe soeuer) to be made with cannasse pointed backs, whereon was fashioned 2 smiles, which caused the gentleman euer after to keepe his cloake on his backe, for feare two of the three should be discouered.

(11)

WIll Backstead the Player cast his Chamber-lye out of his window in the night, which chanced to light vpon the

the heads of the watch passing by, who angerly said, who is that offers us this abuse? Why, quoth Will, who is there? Who is here, said one of the pickled watchmen, we are the Watch. The Watch, quoth William, why my friends you know, Harme watch, harme catch.

(12)

A Cardinall of Rome had a goodly faire house new built, but the broken bricks, tiles, sand, lime, stones, and such rubbish as are commonly the remnants of such buildings lay confusedly in heaps and scattered here and there: The Cardinall demanded of his Surveyor wherefore the rubbish was not conveyed away: The Surveyor said, that he purposed to hire an hundred carts for the purpose. The Cardinall replyed, that the Charge of Carts might be saved, for a pit might be digged in the ground and bury it. My Lord, said the Surveyor, I pray you what shall we doe with the earth which wee dig out of the said pit? Why you whoreson Corcomb, said the Cardinall, canst thou not dig the pit deepe enough, and bury all together?

(13)

A Poore Countryman praying deuoutly superstitious before an old Image of S. Loy, the Image suddenly fell downe vpon the poore man, and bruised his bones sorely, that he could not stirre abroad in a moneth after; in which space the cheating Priests had set vp a new Image: the countryman came to the Church againe, and knocked farre off, to the new image, saying, Although thou smilest and lookest faire vpon me, yet thy father plaid me such a knauish pranke lately, that Ile beware how I come too neare thee, least thou shouldest haue any of thy fathers vnhappy qualities.

(14)

A Lady hauing beene ten yeares in suit of Law, had a triall at last, where the iudgement went on her side; whereupon she would presently expresse her ioy by inuiting some of her nearest tenants & neighbours to supper; amongst whom was a plaine downe-right country Peasant, to whom the Lady said, Tenant, I thinke I haue tickled my aduersary now, though it hath been long first, I trow hee will make no

brags

brags of his medling with me. The honest Yeoman replyed, Truly Madam I did ever thinke what it would come to at last, for I knew when he first medled with your Ladyship, that he had a wrong Sow by the eare.

(15)

ONe asked a fellow what the Westminster Hall was like; Marry, quoth the other, it is like a Butlers Box at Christmas amongst gamesters, for whosoever loseth, the Box will be sure to bee a winner.

(16)

A Proper Gentlewoman went to speak with a rich Mizer that had more gowt then good manners, at her taking leave he requested her to taste a cup of Canara: She (contrary to his expectation) toke him at his word, and thanked him. Hee commanded Jeffery Starveling his man to wash a glasse, and fill it to the Gentlewoman. Honest Jeffery fild a great glasse about the bignesse of two Taylors thimbles, and gave it to his Master, who kist it to save cost, and gave it to the Gentlewoman, saying that it was good Canara of six yeares old at

the least, to whom thee answered, (seeing the quantity so small) Sir, as you requested me, I have tasted your wine, but I wonder that it should be so little, being of such a great age.

(17)

A Souldier upon his march found a horse-shoe, and stucke it at his girdle where passing through a wood, some of the enemy lay in ambush, and one of them discharged his musket, and the shot by fortune light against the fellowes horse-shoe. Ha, quoth he, I perceive that little armour will serve a mans turne, if it be put on in the right place.

(18)

One being in a Chaber with his friend, looking out at the window, hee saw one riding on a horse in the street: said he, does yonder that horse? quoth the other: then said he, you may sweare you have heere the best horse in England: how doe you know that said the other? I know it well, said he, for, it is my horse, and I am sure that he is the best, and yet I dare sweare that I have one in my stable worth ten of him.

(19) An

(19)

AN vnhappy boy that kept his fathers sheepe in the country, did vse to carry a paire of Cards in his pocket, and meeting with boyes as good as himselfe, would fall to Cards at the Cambrian game of Whip-her-ginny, or English one and thirty, at which sport he would some dates lose a sheepe or two: for which if his father corrected him, hee (in revenge) would driue the sheepe home at night ouer a narrow bridge, where some of them falling beside the bridge, were drowned in the swift brooke. The old man being wearied with his vngracious dealing, complained to a Iustice, thinking to affright him from doing any more the like. In briefe, before the Iustice the youth was brought, where (vsing small reuerence, and lesse manners,) the Iustice said to him, Sirrah, you are a notable villaine, you play at Cards, and lose your fathers sheepe at one and thirty. The boy replyed, that it was a lye. A lye, quoth the Iustice, you sawcy knaue, doest thou giue me the lye: No, sir, the boy, I gaue not you the lye, but you told me the lye, for I neuer lost sheepe at one and thirty, for

when my game was one and thirty I alwayes wonne. Indeed, said the Iuſtice, thou ſaiſt true: but I have another accuſation againſt thee, which is, that you drive your ſheepes ouer a narrow bridge, where ſome of them are oftentimes drowned: What's a lye too, quoth the boy, for thoſe that goe ouer the bridge are well enough, it is onely thoſe that fall beſide, which are drowned: Whereto the Iuſtice ſaid to the boyes father, Old man, thou haſt brought in two falſe accuſations againſt thy ſonne, for he neuer loſt ſheep at one and thirty, nor were there euer any drowned that went ouer the bridge.

(20)

A Quiblet.

A Captaine paſſing through a roome where a woman was drining a buck of clothes, but he thinking ſhee had beene brewing, ſaw a diſh, and dipped ſome ſmall quantity of the Lye, which he ſuppoſing to bee mault wort, dranke vp, and preſently began to ſweare, ſpit, ſputter, and ſpanle: the woman aſked him what he ayled, hee told her, and called her ſome ſcurvy names ſaying

saying he had swallowed a Lye. Nay, then I cannot blame you to be angry for you being a Souldier and Captaine, it must needs trouble your stomake to swallow the Lye.

(21)

A Country fellow (that had not walked much in streets that were paved) came to London, where a dog came suddenly out of a house, and furiously ran at him: the fellow stoped to take up a stone to cast at the Dog, and finding them all fast rammed or paved in the ground; quoth hee, what strange Country am I in, where the people tye up the stones, and let the dogs loose.

(22)

A honest Mayor of a Towne, being all mercy and no Justice, loving ease and quietnesse, and unwilling to commit any offence or offender, one said of him that he was like the herb Iohn in a pottage pot, for that herbe did not give any taste at all either good or bad, but an excellent colour: so the Mayor did neither good nor harme, but (as an image of a Mayors authority) filled up the roome.

(23)

A Iuſtice of the peace, being angry with a pilfering knaue, ſaid, Sirrah, if thou doſt not mend thy manners, thou wilt be ſhortly hanged, or elſe I will bee hanged for thee. The bold knaue replied, I thanke your worſhip for that kind offer, and I beſeech your worſhip not to bee out of the way when I ſhall haue occaſion to vſe you.

(24)

CErtaine Iuſtices of the Peace being informed of the odious abuſes daily committed by drunkenneſſe, in their Iuriſdictions, did according to their places and duties, meet at a market towne, and ſate two dayes, hearing informations, and working reformations: at laſt they concluded that the Ale and Beare were too ſtrong, and therefore commanded that from thence forth ſmaller drinke ſhould bee brewed, whereby theſe barnly people might ſometimes goe to bed ſober. But one mad toſpot fellow being much grieued at this order, hauing made himſelfe halfe pot-ſhaken with-

without feare or wit came to the Justices, and asked them if they had sate two dayes about the drawing of fatal drink: to whom one of the Justices replyed, yes: Why then quoth the drunkard, I pray you sit three dayes more to know who shall drinke it, for I will none of it.

(25)

THere was a Scottish Gentleman that had sore eyes, who was counselled by his Physicians to forbeare drinking of wine: but he said hee neither could nor would forbeare it, maintaining it for the lesser evill, to shut up the windowes of his body, than to suffer the house to fall downe through want of reparations.

(26)

VPon the death of Queene Elizabeth, there was a Mayor of a Countrey Towne sitting in consultation with his Brethren: to whom hee gravely said, My brethren and Neighbours, I doe heare that the Queene is dead, wherefore I thought it exceeding fit wee should

despaire

deſpaire to this place, that being diſſembled together, we might conſult of our eſtates: for I doubt not we ſhall haue another Queene or a King, and I ſtand in great feare that the people will be vnrude, ſo that we ſhall be in danger of ſtrange Reſurrection.

(27)

ANother Mayor that was on hunting, (vp chance) one aſked him how he liked the Cry: a por take the Dogs, ſaith he, they make ſuch a bawling that I cannot heare the Cry.

(28)

AN old Iuſtice was faſt aſleepe on the Bench, when a poore Malefactor was iudged to be hanged; at which word the Iuſtice ſuddenly awaked, and ſaid to the Theefe, My friend, I pray let this bee a warning to you, looke you doe ſo no more, for wee doe not ſhew euery man the like fauour.

A old Recorder of a City in this Land was busie with a Country Mayor; in the meane space, they were interrupted by a fellow that was brought before him for killing of a man: my Lord asked the fellowes name, who answered, his name was Gilman. Said my Lord, take away G, and thy name is Ilman, put K. to it, thy name is Kilman, and put to Sp. and thy name is Spilman, thou art halfe hanged already (as the proverbs sayes:) for thou hast an ill name, let a man carry it how he can.

The Mayor all this while stood by musing at my Lords canuasing the mans name and afterward being at home among his owne good people, hee had an offender brought before him for getting a Wench with childe: Master Mayor asked him his name: the fellow said, if it please your worship my name is Johnson. Then Master Mayor (striving to imitate my Lord) said, take away G and thy name is Ilman, put K to it, it is Kilman, put Sp to it, and thy name is Spilman, thou art a knave, thou hast an ill name, and thou shalt be hanged, &c.

(30)

A Quiblet.

MAfter Field the Player riding up Fleetſtreet a great pace, a Gentleman called him, and aſked him what play was playd that day: he (being angry to be ſtayd upon ſo frivolous a demand) anſwered, that he might ſee what play was to bee playd upon every Poſt. I cry you mercy, (ſaid the Gentleman) I tooke you for a Poſt, you rode ſo faſt.

(31)

ONe being long vexed with the ſpirit of iealouſie, came ſuddenly into his houſe, and found a man (whom he ſuſpected) ſomewhat too buſie with his wife; to whom hee ſaid, Now good fellow I thanke thee, for thou haſt cured me of a ſtrange helliſh torment; my ſuſpition is cleared, and apparant knowledge hath given mee ſuch eaſe of heart, that I will be iealous no more.

(32)

A Skilfull Painter was requeſted to paint out a faire Curtezan (in plaine Engliſh a Whore) I pray you (ſpare that coſt, ſaid the Painter, for if ſhe be a right whore ſhe daily paints her ſelfe.

(33)

Seigneur Valdrino (pay-maſter to the Campe of Alphonſus King of Aragon) a man exquiſite in courtſhip and compliment, as two others were at ſtrife laying wagers what Countryman hee was, a blunt bold Captaine aſked what was the matter: why Captaine, ſaid one, we are laying a wager what Countryman my L. Treaſurer Valdrino is: Oh ſaid the Captain, I can tell you that, I am ſure he was borne in the land of Promiſe, for I have ſerved the King in his wars theſe ſeven yeares without pay, and ever when I petition to my Lord, he payes mee with no coyne but promiſes, which makes mee halfe aſſured that he is that Countryman.

(34)

A Nobleman of France (as he was riding) met with a peoman of the country, to whom hee ſaid, My friend I ſhould know thee, I doe remember I have often ſeene thee: My good Lord, ſaid the Countryman, I am one of your Honors poore tenants, and my name is T. I. I remember thee better now (ſaid my Lord) there were 2 brothers of you, but one is dead, I pray which of you both remaine alive?

(35) The

(35)

The aforesaid Noble-man having had a Harper that was blind, play to him after supper somewhat late, at last hee arose, and commanded one of his servants to light the Harper downe the staires: to whom the Serving man said, my Lord, the Harper is blind: thou ignorant knave, quoth my Lord, he hath the more need of light.

(36)

A young fellow bought himselfe the richest Cuckold in England: to whom his Mother said very angerly, you selfish covetous boy, why do'st thou desire such a wife, hath not thine owne father enough in store for thee?

(37)

A Whore Rampant made her husband a Cuckold Dormant, with a front Cressant, surprised by the watch Guardant, brought to the Justice Passant, with her play-fellow Pendant, after a course Couchant; the Justice told her that her offence was hainous in breaking the bonds of matrimony in that adulterate manner, and that

that thee ſhould conſider that her huſband was her Head: God ſir, quoth ſhee, I did ever acknowledge him ſo; and I hope it is no ſuch great fault in mee, for I was but trimming, dreſſing, or adorning my Head.

(38)

A man being very ſickly, one ſaid to his wife, I marvel your huſband doth not weare a night-cap. Truely (quoth ſhee) within theſe ſix months that my huſband hath beene ſick, although his legs be ſhrunk yet hee hath outgrowne all his night-caps.

(39)

A Boy, whoſe mother was noted to be one not over-loden with honeſty, went to ſeeke his Godfather, and enquiring for him, quoth one to him, who is thy Godfather: the boy reply'd, his name is goodman Digland the Gardiner: Oh ſaid the man, if he be thy Godfather, he is at the next Ale-houſe: but I feare thou takeſt Gods name in vaine.

(40)

A Scholler riding from Cambridge towards London, his horſe being tired, (a lazy diſeaſe often befalling ſuch hackneies) met a Poſt on the way, who notwithſtanding he did what he could to make his horſe giue him place, by ſpurre, ſwitch, and bridle, yet the Poſt was faine to giue him the way: to whom (in anger) he ſaid, Thou paltry fellow, doſt thou not ſee I am a Poſt? The Scholler ſtraight replyed, And thou ignorant fellow, doſt thou not ſee that I ride vpon a Poſt?

(41)

A Fellow hauing more drinke than wit, in a winter euening made a ſolish vow to take the wall of as many as he met betwixt the Temple-bar and Charing Croſſe, and comming neere the Sauoy, where ſtood a Poſt a little diſtance from the wall: the drunkard tooke it for a man, and would haue the wall, beginning to quarrell and giue the Poſt foule words: at which a man came by, and aſked the matter, and whom he ſpake to: he anſwered he would haue the wall of that fellow that ſtood ſo

ſtiffy

ſtirre there; my friend, ſaid the other, that is a Poſt, you muſt giue him the way: Is he ſo, ſaid the fellow, a pox vpon him, why did he not blow his horne?

(42)

A Saylor being on a tyred horſe, riding from Dover to London, his company prayd him to ride faſter: to whom he anſwered, I can come no faſter, doe you not ſee that I am becalmd?

(43)

TWo Gentlemen were ieſting, and one of them caſt away the others hat; but the other catcht his hat off, and put it on his owne head: now fie, fie, quoth the other, thou ſpoyleſt my hat: wherewith ſaid the other? Sparry (ſaid hee that was bareheaded) thou ſpoyleſt my hat with putting a Calues head into it.

(44)

The figure Conuerſion.

IF a Vintner doth draw mee good wine vpon money or credit, then he is fitter to draw than hang: but if hee draw me bad wine for good money, then he is much fitter to hang than to draw.

(45)

A man having beene with a Doctor of phyſick to haue his aduice about ſome griefe he had; when he came home, his wife aſked him what newes? Marry, ſaid hee, my Phyſician doth counſell me to drinke Aſſes milke euery morning faſting: Why huſband, quoth the Woman, I pray you tell me, doth maſter Doctor giue ſucke?

(46)

A Brane and valiant Captaine, whom I could name, had a ſcarfe giuen him here in England, and hee ſayling ouer into the Low Countries, an old Roman Catholique Lady of his acquaintance, was very importunate to beg his ſcarfe of him: the Captaine aſked her what ſhee would doe with it, and ſaid, it was not fit for her wearing. She anſwered him, that if he would giue it her, that Ieſus Chriſt ſhould weare it in the Church vpon holy dayes, meaning the Image: Madam, ſaid the Captaine, if you will bring me word that euer his father wore ſuch a ſcarfe, then I will giue you this for him.

(47) Be-

(47)

BEtwéne the houres of twelue and one at noone, one aſked me, what it was a clocke: I anſwered him, it was little or nothing: He demaded of me what I meant by my anſwer? I reply'd, that it being not one of the clocke, it was to bee reckoned or counted for nought, for that which is leſſer than one, is little or nothing.

(48)

A Gentlewoman cheapned a cloſe ſtoole in Pauls Church-yard, and the ſhop-keeper did aſke her too much money for it, as ſhe thought. Why miſtris, ſaid hee, I pray you conſider what a good locke and key it hath: Shee replyed, that ſhee had ſmall vſe for either lock or key, for ſhe purpoſed to put nothing into it, but what ſhe cared not who ſtole out.

(49)

A Country woman at an Aſſiſe was to take her oath againſt a party; the ſaid party intreated the Iudge that her oath might not bee taken: the Iudge demanded why hee excepted againſt her:

my Lord, quoth he, thee is a Recusant or Roman Catholique, and they hold it no matter of conscience to sweare any thing against vs. Come hither woman, said the Judge, I doe not thinke thou art a Recusant, I am perswaded that for forty shillings thou wilt sweare the Pope is a knaue: Good my Lord, said thee, the Pope is a stranger to me, but if I knew him as well as I know your Lordship, I would sweare for halfe the money.

(50)

A Cardinall kept a knauish foole for his recreation, to whom he said, Sirrah foole, suppose that all the world were dead but thou and I, and that one of vs should be turned to a Horse, and the other of vs to an Asse, say which of these two wouldest thou choose to bee? The foole answered, Sir, you are my master, and for that respect it is fit that your worship should chuse first, and I will bee contented to take that which you leaue. Why then said the Cardinall, I would be a horse: no said the foole, let me intreat your worship to be an Asse, for I would be an Asse to chuse of all things: why, quoth the Cardinall? marry, said the foole,

sale, because that I have knowne many Asses come to bee Justices, but I never knew any horse come to the like preferment.

(51)

A Grave discreet Gentleman having a comely wife, whose beauty and free behaviour did draw her honesty into suspition, by whom hee had a sonne almost at mans estate, of very dissolute and wanton carriage: I muse, said one, that a man of such staid and moderate gravity should have a sonne of such a contrary and froward disposition. Sir, replyed another, the reason is, that his pate is stuffed with his mothers wit, that there is no roome for any of his fathers wisdome: besides the lightness of her heels is gotten into her sonnes braines.

(52)

A Rich Gentleman dwelling 150 miles from Oxford, having a sonne that had seven yeares beene a student there, at last sent for him home, to whom hee said, Sonne I does heare that you are well practised in the rudiments of learning, but that withall

you are addicted to an idle veine of the poore and threadbare art of Poetry; which I charge thee to leaue and auoid, as thou tenderest my fauour; for my mind is not to haue thee liue beggerly, and dye poorely: yet I will aske thee one Poetical question, which is, Wherefore thinkest thou that so beautifull a creature as Venus, was so besotted to match her selfe with so ill fauoured a knaue as Vulcan? in truth father, quoth the young man, I can yeild you no reason for it, but I wonder at it; and yet I doe admire as much, wherefore my mother maried with you.

(53)

A Man going with his Wife by a deepe riuer side, began to talk of Cuckolds, and withall he wisht that euery Cuckold were cast into the riuer; to whom his wife replyes, Husband I pray you learne to swim.

(54)

A Man riding through a village with his dog running by him, which dogs name was called Cuckold, leaping and frisking into euery house he past by, where the doore was open: whereupon the man being

being afraid his dog would bee loſt, calls and whiſtles, here, here, Cuckold; to whom an old woman ſaid, whom doſt thou miſcall? I would have thée know that no Cuckold doth dwell in this houſe. Good Woman, ſaid the man, you miſtake mee, I doe call no body but my dog: Now out upon thee thou miſ-beléeving knaue, ſaid ſhee, where learneſt thou that maners, to call a dog by a chriſten bodies name.

(55)

A Luſty Miller that in his ponger days had béene much giuen to the fleſh and the deuill; ſo that not one pretty maid or female ſeruant did or could bring griſt to his Mill to be grownd, but the knaue Miller would doe his beſt to vndermine and bloin vp her chaſtitie, and withall bee would bargain with as many as his temptations ouercame, that at his day of marriage euery one of them ſhould giue him a Cake. In proceſſe of time the Miller was married, and thoſe ſemeſaid free-hearted Wenches ſent each one their cakes, to the number of 99. His wife the bride, who alſo went for a maid, did muſe and aske what was the meaning of ſo many Cakes

The Miller told her the truth of al without any dissembling: to whom his wife answered, if I had beene so wise in bargaining, as you haue beene in your time, the young men of my acquaintance would haue sent me 100 cheeses to eat with your cakes.

This bawdy Miller in a trap was catcht,
Nor onely married, but most fitly matcht:
In this the prouerb is approued plaine,
What bread men breake, is broke to them againe.

(56)

THere was a faire ship of two hundred tuns lying at the Tower-wharfe at London, where a Countryman passing by most earnestly looked on the said ship, and demaunded how old she was: one made answer that shee was a yeare old. God Lord blesse me, said the Countryman, is shee so big growne in one yeare, what a greatnesse will shee be by that time shee comes to my age.

This mans blind ignorance I may compare
To *Aquavite* giuen to a *Mare*:
Let each man his owne calling then apply,
Ne sutor vltra crepidam, say I.

(57) Twelue

(57)

TWelue Scholliers riding together, one of them ſaid, my maſters let vs ride faſter: Why, quoth another, me thinks we ride a good pace, Ile warrant it is foure mile an houre. Alas ſaid the firſt, what is foure mile an houre amongſt all vs.

Let no man boaſt of wit or learning deepe,
For ignorãce may out of knowledge creep.
Amongſt 12 men 4 mile an houre to ride,
He that hath wit to each his ſhare diuide.

(58)

A Apprentice in the market did aske the price of an hundred Oyſters: his friend perſwaded him not to buy them, for they were too ſmall: too ſmall, reply'd the Prentice, there is not much loſſe in that, for I ſhall haue the more to the hundred.

If vp the hill a meaſur'd mile it be,
Then downe the hill's another mile, I ſee:
A groat to pay, 4 pence will quit the coſt,
What's won in th'undred, in the ſhire is loſt

(59)

SIr Gentlemen riding together, were in doubt that they were out of their way,

way, wherefore they rode a slight pace to an old shepherd, one of them inquiring of him if that were the way to such a towne, and how farre it was thither. Sir, quoth the Shepherd, that is the right way, and you have six miles thither. Quoth one of the Gentlemen, what a lying old Knave art thou, it cannot bee above foure miles: the Shepherd replyde, Sir you offer like a chapman, and you shall have it for foure miles, but Ile assure you, it shall cost every one of these Gentlemen six miles before they come thither.

Here rashnes did the Gallāts tongue orestip,
To whom the Shepherd gaue a pleasing nip:
Thus softest fire doth make the sweetest Mault, (fault.
And mild reproofes make rashnesse see his

(60)

A Man was very angry with his mayd, because his eggs were boyld too hard; truly, said she, I have made them boyle a long houre, but the next you have shal boile two houres but they shal be tender enough.

The boyling of this wenches eggs I find,
Much like vnto a greedy mizers mind:
The egs the more they boyle are harder stil;
The mizer's full, too full; yet wants his fill.

(61) The

(61)

Two learned good fellowes drinking a pipe of Tobacco, it being almost out that he that drunke last did partly scale the ashes to come hot to his lips; giuing the pipe to his friend, said, Ashes to ashes: the other taking the pipe, and being of a quicke apprehension, threw it out to the dunghill, saying, Earth to earth.

Thus witwith wit agrees, like cake & cheese
Both sides are gainers, neither side doth leese;
Conceit begets conceit, iest, iest doth father
And butter fals to ground, doth something gather.

(62)

One sayd a Citizen was a man all in earnest, and in no part like a iest, because the Citizen was neuer bad, or the iest neuer good till they were both broke.

What's one mans yea, may be anothers nay:
The Sun doth soften wax, and harden clay:
Some Citizens are like to iests, for why,
They'll breake in iest, or bankrupt policy.

(63)

A Gallant with a galloping wit, was mounted vpon a running horse toward a Towne named Tame, within ten miles of Oxford, and riding at full speed, he met an old man, and asked him, Sirrah is this the way to Tame? yes sir, hee replyde your Horse, Ile warrant you, if he were as wild as the deuill.

This is a riddle to a foole, me thinks,
And seemes to want an *Oedipus* or *Sphinx*,
But Reader, in my booke I hold it fit,
To finde you lines, your selfe must find you wit.

(64)

A Complementall Courtier that in his French, Italian, and Spanish cringes, congees, and curtesies, would bend his body, and bow euery way like a tumbler, a Sorcers seruant espying his marmoritical Apishnesse, said, Oh if my master could haue bowed but halfe so much, I am certainly perswaded that he had neuer broke.

Too much of one thing oft proues good for nothing,

And

And dainties in ſatiety, breed loathing:
Th' ones flattery mingled with the others pride,
Had ſeru'd them both, both might liue long vnſpide.

(65)

I My ſelfe gaue a booke to King Iames once in the great Chamber at Whitehal as his Maieſty came from the Chappell: the Duke of Richmond ſaid merrily vnto me, Taylor where did you learne the manners to giue the King a book and not kneele? My Lord, ſaid I, if it pleaſe your Grace, I doe giue now, but when I beg any thing then I will kneele.

Be it to all men by theſe preſents knowne,
Men need not kneel to giue away their own
Ile ſtand vpon my feet when as I giue,
And kneele when as I beg more meanes to liue.
But ſome by this may vnderſtand,
That Courtiers oftner kneele than ſtand.

(66)

THe trayned ſouldiers of a certaine ſhire which I could name, to the number of 6000, as they were muſtring and

and drilling under their seueral captaines, a yeomans sonne being there as a raw soldier in his corslet, his father standing by, said, I vaith it does me much good at heart to zee how trim a vellow my zonne is in his hardneſſe. The young fellow hearing his fathers commendations of him, began very desperately to shake his pike, and looking exceeding grim, with a fearefull, horrible, terrible countenance, said, O vather, chad lather not a groat that all wee had but one Spaniard here.

One *Spaniard* mongſt 6000, pitty 'twere,
Better ten thousand Britans bold were there
Led by braue Leaders, that might make Spaine quake, (*Drake.*
Like *Vere*, or *Morgan*, *Eſſex*, *Blunt*, or

(67)

One said that hee could neuer haue his health in Cambridge, and that if hee had liued there till this time, he thought in his conſcience that he had died seuen yeares agoe.

I will not say the man that spake so lyed,
Seuē yeares ago no doubt he might haue di'd,
He by his trade perhaps might be a *dyer*,
And daily dy'd to liue, and bin no lyer.

(68)

A Countrey fellow was much grieued, that he had not gone seuen miles to a market towne to haue seene the Baboones. Why, said his wife, it is too far to goe and come in a day to see such babies, especially tis too great a iourney on foot. O quoth hee, I could haue gone thither with my neighbour Hobson on foot, like a foole as I was, and I might haue rid backe vpon my neighbour Iobsons mare, like an asse as I am.

Thus in the *preter tense* a *foole* he was,
And in the *present tense* he is an *Asse*:
And in the *future*, *foole* and *asse* shall be,
That goes or rides so far such sights to see.

(69)

There was a lusty young Scholler preferred to a Benefice in the Country, and commonly on Sundayes and holydayes after euening praier, he would haue a dozen bouts at cudgels with the sturdiest youths in his parish: The Bishop of the Diocesse hearing of it, sent for the parson, telling him that this beseemed not his profession and grauity, and that if hee did not desist from that vnmeet kind of exercise, he would vnbenefice him: Good my Lord, said the

the parson) I beſeech you to conceive rightly of me, and I doubt not but my playing at cudgels will be accounted tolerable, for I doe it on purpoſe to edifie the rudeſt ſort of my people: How ſo, ſaid the Biſhop: Marry my Lord (quoth the Parſon) whatſoever I doe teach them at morning and evening prayer, I doe beat ſoundly into their heads at cudgels afterward, for their better remembrance.

I wiſh that all the Fencers in our nation,
Were onely of this *Parſons* congregation:
That he his life & doctrine ſhould explaine
By beating them, whilſt they beat him againe.

(70)

A Judge upon the Bench did aſke an old man how old he was: My Lord, ſaid he, I am eight and foureſcore: And why not foureſcore ſix eight, ſaid the Judge: the other replyed, becauſe I was eight before I was foureſcore.

Eight's before eighty, all men may diſcry,
Yet we name eighty firſt, contrarily.

Pull

Pull off my *Boots* and *Spurs*, I you beseech,
When *Spurs* & *Boots* is rather proper speech

(71)

A Fellow made his boast that hee rode 120 miles with one horse and never drew bit: that may be (quoth another) perhaps you rid him with a halter.

The proverb saies, he that wil *swear* wil *lye*,
He that will *lie* will *steale* by consequency:
Swearers are *lyars*, lyars most are theeues,
Or God help *Iaylors*, & true *Vndersheriues*.

(72)

One saw a decayed Gentleman in a very thred-bare cloake, sayd to him, Sir you have a very watchfull cloake on: Why said the poore Gentleman? the other answered, I doe not thinke it had a good nap this seuen yeares: the Gentleman replyed, and truly sir me thinkes you want a nap as well as my cloake, for you talke idely for want of sleepe.

The prodigall at Pouerty doth scoffe,
Though from his backe the *beggar's* not far off.
Here flout with flout, and bob with bob is quitted,
And proud vainglorious folly finely fitted.

(73)

A Diligent and learned Preacher on a Sunday in the afternoone was preaching, whilst most of the zealous Presbyters, (for their meaner edification) were fast asleepe in their pues: in the meane space a young child cryed somewhat aloud at the lower end of the Church, which the Preacher hearing, called to the Nurse, and said, Nurse, I pray thee still thy child, or else it may chance to awaken some of the best men in our Parish.

Men sleepe at Sermons, sure their brains are addle, (cradle;
Sly Satan lulls them, and doth rocke the
When men thus doe no ill, tis vnderstood,
The diuell hinders them from doing good.

(74)

A Chorister or singing-man at service in a Cathedrall Church, was asleepe when all his fellowes were singing, which the Deane espying, sent a boy to him to waken him, and asked him why hee did not sing: he being suddenly awaked, prayed the boy to thanke Master Deane for his kind remembrance, and to tell him, that he was as merry as those that did sing.

They

They say he's wise that can himselfe keepe warme,
And that the man that sleepes well, thinkes no harme:
He sung not, yet was in a merry mood,
Like Iohn Indifferent, did not harme nor good.

(75)

A Kind of clownish gentleman had paide a Brawne sent him against Christmas, hee very liberally gaue the Seruing-man halfe a shilling that brought it: the Seruingman gaue the Porter that carried it eight pence before the Gentlemans face. Sirrah, said hee, are so prodigall to reward the Porter with eight pence, when I giue you but six pence? thou beares the mind of a prodigall Gallant, although by thy sut thou seemest a lubberly clowne: Good Sir, said the fellow, I confesse I haue a very clownish lubberly paire of feet, but yet I am perswaded that a payre of your worships shoes would fit them well.

Here *Bore* & *Brawne* together are wel met,
He knew that giuing was no way to get,
The world gets somewhat by the *Prodigal*,
When as the *Miser* gets the diuell and all.

(76)

A Griping extortioner that had béene a maker of beggars for the space of forty yeares, and by raising rents and oppression had vndone many families, saies on a time in anger to a poore fellow that had stolne a sheep of his, Ah villain, darest thou robme? I vow and sweare there is not so damned a rogue in the world as thou: to whom the fellow answered, I beséech your good worship remember your selfe, and be good to mee for Gods sake, and for your own sake.

This Rascals eye is with a beame so blind,
That in the poore mans he a mote can find:
The wolfe himself a temperat feeder deems
And every man too much himselfe esteems

(77)

A Verningman and his mistris was landing at the Whitefryars stayers, the stayers being very bad, a waterman offered to helps the woman, saying, Give me your hand Gentlewoman, Ile help you: to whom her man replyed, you lawcy fellow place your words right, my mistris is no gentlewoman, she is a Lady.

All

All is not gold (they say) that glisters bright,
Snow is not [illegible]er, though it looke as white:
And tis approued to be true and common,
That euery Lady's not a Gentlewoman.

(78)

A Seruingman going vphall in London, (minding his businesse more than his way) a gallant iustled him from the wall almost into the kennell: the fellow turned about, and asked the Gentleman why hee did iustle him for the Gentleman said, Because he would not giue the wall to a sawcy knaue. The Seruingman replyed, your worship is not of my mind, for I will.
Here Pride that takes Humility in snuffe,
Is well encountred with a counterbuffe:
One would not giue the wall vnto a knaue,
The other would, and him the wall he gaue.

(79)

A Iustice of the Peace was very angry with a country yeoman because hee came not to him at his first sending for him and after he had bountifully bestowed two or three dozen of knaues vpon him, he said, to him; Sirrah, I will make you know that the proudest sawcy knaue that liues

under my command shall come before mee when I send for him. I beseech your worship said the man, to pardon me, for I was afraid: afraid of what said the Justice? of your worship, answered the fellow. Of me, said the Justice? why hast thou afraid of me? Because your worship lookes so like a Lyon, said the man; a Lyon quoth the Justice? when didst thou see a Lyon? may it please your worship (the fellow replyed) I saw a Butcher bring one but yesterday to Colebrooke market, with a white face, and his foure legs bound.

This fellow was a knaue, or foole, or both,
Or else his wit was of but slender growth:
He gaue the whitfac'd *Calfe* the Lions stile,
The Iustice was a proper man the while.

(80)

Diuers Gentlemen being merry together, at last one of their acquaintance came to them (whose name was Sampson) Aha, said one of them, now we may bee securely merry, no Serieant or Bailiffe dare touch vs, for if a thousand Philistims come, here is Sampson, who is able to brain them all: to whom Sampson replyde, Sir I may

boldly

boldly venture against so many as you speake of, provided, that you will lend me one of your Jaw-bones.

(81)

TWo Playsterers being at worke for me at my house in Southwarke, did many times patch and dawbe out part of their dayes labour with prating, which I being digging in my garden did overheare that their chat was of their wives, and how that if I were able (quoth one) my wife should ride in pompe through London as I saw a Countesse ride yesterday: why, quoth the other, how did shee ride I pray? Marry, said he, in state, in her Horslitter: O base, quoth the other, Horslitter: I protest as poore a man as I am, I would have allowed my wife a threepeny trusse of clean straw.

(82)

SIr Edward Dyer came to the towne on some business, just at the time as the Gate was newly shut, and the Warders going away with the keyes, bee looking through the gate called to one of them, saying, Hoe fellow, I pray thee open the gate

him let me in: None of your fellow Sir, but a poore knaue: Why then said Sir Edward, I pray thee poore knaue let mee in: nay no knaue neither, quoth the Warder. Why then said the knight, he was a knaue that told me so.

(83)

One met his friend in the street, and told him he was very sorry to see him looke so ill, asking him what he ayled: hee replyed, that hee was now well amended, but hee had beene lately sicke of the Pox: What pox, the small pox, said his friend? Nay, quoth the other, my minde was not so base; for I had the biggest pox that I could get for my money.

(84)

An honest Hostesse of mine at Oxford rosted an olde shoulder of a Ram, which in the eating was as tough as a Bucks Jerkin; I did aske her what the reason was that the mutton was so tough: Shee said she knew not, except the Butcher deceived her in the age of it, and she would tell him on both sides of his eares, like a knaue as he

he was: Nay, quoth I, I thinke there is another fault in it which will excuse the Butcher, for perhaps you roasted it with old wood: in troth quoth the hostesse it is like enough, and my husband never doth otherwayes, but buy old stumps and knots which makes all the meat wee either roast or boyle, so exceeding tough that no body can eat it.

(85)

One hearing a clock strike three when he thought it was not two, said, this Clocke is like a hypocriticall Puritane, for though he will not sweare, yet hee will lye abominably.

(86)

Dicke Tarleton said that he could compare Queene Elizabeth to nothing, more fitly then to a Sculler, for said hee neither the Queene nor the Sculler hath a fellow.

(87) Two

(87)

TWo obstinate rich fellowes in Law, (that had each of them more money then wit) by chance one of them coming out of Westminster Hall, met with his adversaries wife, to whom hee said, in truth good woman I pity much pity your case, in that it is your hard fortune that such a fole as your husband should have so discréet and modest a wife. The woman repiyde, In truth Sir I doe grieve more, that so honest a wife as you have, should have such a wrangling knave to her husband.

(88)

A Poore labouring man was married & matched to a creature that so much used to scold waking, that she had much adoe to refraine it sleeping, so that the poore man was so batterfang'd and belabour'd with tongue-mettle, that he was weary of his life: at last foure or five women that were his neighbours (pitying his case) came in his absence to his house to admonish and counsell his wife to a quiet behaviour towards her husband; telling her that shee was a shame to all good women, in her bad

 blage

visage of so honest a painefull man: the woman replyed to her neighbours, that they thought her husband did not love her, which was partly the cause that she was so froward towards him; why (saith an old woman) I will shew thee how thou shalt prove that he loves thee dearely; doe thou counterfeit thy selfe dead, and lye under the table, and one of us will fetch thy husband, and he shall finde us heavy and grieving for thee: by which meanes thou shalt perceive by his lamentation for thee, how much he loves thee: this counsell was allowed and effected. When the poore man came home, he hearing the matter (being much oppress with griefe) ranne under the table bemoaning the happy losse of his most kind veration, and making as though hee would kisse her, with a most loving embrace, to make all sure, he brake her necke. The neighbours pitying the mans extreme passion, in compassion told him that his wife was not dead, and that all this was done but to make a tryall of his love towards her: whereupon they called her by her name, bidding her to rise, and that shee had failed it enough with her husband: but for all their calling, she lay still, which made

made one of the women to shake and iogge her, at which the woman cryed, alas she is dead indeed: why this it is quoth her husband to dissemble and counterfeit with God and the world.

(90)

A Planter of a Colledge in Oxford professing some crums of Logicke and chippings of Sophistry, making distribution of bread at the Schollers table, one of the Schollers complained vnto him that the bread was dow-baked; Why quoth he, so it should be, what else is the definition of bread, but dough baked?

(91)

A miserable fellow in the countrey, did once a yeare bid to invite his neighbours to dinner, so as they were one time sate, hee bade them welcome, saying, that there was a sirloyne of beefe, that the ore it came from cost 20 pound, and that there was a Capon that hee payd 2 shillings 6 pence for in the market: at which a country yeoman sitting against the Capon, fell to

to mee cut off a leg of it, (the reſt of the gueſts being not yet paſt their roaſt beefe) to whom the maſter of the houſe ſaid, My friend, I pray thee eat ſome of this ſame ſurloyne: Oh Sir, God forbid, quoth the fellow, I am but a poore man, an oxe of 20 pounds price is too deare meat, a Capon of halfe a crowne will ſerue my turne well enough, I thanke you.

(92)

A Rich man told his nephew, that he had read a booke called Lucius Apuleius, of the golden aſſe, and that hee found there how Apulcius after hee had béene an aſſe many yeares, by eating of Roſes he did recouer his manly ſhape againe, and was no more an aſſe: the young man replyed to his vncle, Sir, if I were worthy to aduiſe you, I would giue you counſell to eat a ſallad of Roſes once a weeke your ſelfe.

(93)

A Fellow having béen married but fiue weeks, perceiued his wife to be great with childe, wherefore ſhe deſired him to buy a cradle: ſhortly after hee went to a Faire

Faire hee bought ten cradles, and being demanded whyhee bought so many, hee answered, that his wife would have vse for them all in one yeare.

(94)

A Gentleman untrust and unbuttoned in a cold winter morning, a friend of his told him that it was not for his health to go so open in the raw weather, and that he vsed it did not kill him to goe so oft untrust: To whom the other replyed, Sir, you are of the mind of my Silkeman, Mercer, or Taylor, for they finde fault as you do because I goe so much on trust, but it is a fault I have naturally from my parents and kindred, and my creditors tell me that I vse imitate my betters.

(95)

A Justice of the peace committed a fellow to prison, and commanded him away three or foure times, but still the fellow entreated him. Sirrah (said the Justice) must I bid you bee gone so many times, and will you not go? The fellow answered Sir if your worship had bidden me to dinner or supper, I should in my poore man-

manners not haue taken your offer vnder two or three biddings, therfore I pray you blame me not if I looke for foure biddings to prison.

(96)

A Great man kept a miserable house, so that his seruants did alwais rise from the table with empty panches, though cleane licked platters: truly said one of his men, I thinke my Lord will worke miracles shortly, for though hee practise not to raise the dead, or dispossesse the deuill; yet he goes about to feed his great family with almost nothing.

(97)

ONe said that Bias the Philosopher was the first Bowler; and that euer since the most part of Bowles doe in memory of their Originall, weare this badge of remembrance, and very dutifully hold Bias. Now to tell you, this Bias was one of the seuen Sages or wise men of Greece: My authors to proue him the inuenter of Bowling, are Shamrooke, a famous Scithian Gymnosophist in his 9 book of Rubbing and Running; of which opinion Bacchus the Theban Orator seemes to bee

in

in his third treatise of court performances: the likeliest conjecture is, that it was devised as an emblem, to figure out the worlds folly and inconstancy: for though a childe will ride a sticke or staffe with an imagination that he is on horseback; or make pyes of dirt, or hovles of Cards, feed with a spoone, and cry for three pèces of bread and butter, which childish actions are ridiculous to a man: yet this wise game of Bowling doth make the Fathers surpasse their children in apish tropes and most delicate dogtricks. As first for the postures, 1 humble your Bowle: 2 advance your Bowle: 3 Charge your Bowle: 4 aime your Bowle: 5 discharge your Bowle: 6 pipe your Bowle: in which last posture of piping your Bowle, you shall perceive many varieties and divisions, as wringing of the neck, 4 ting by of the shoulders, clapping of the hands, lying downe of one side, running after the Bowle, making long dutifull scrapes and legs (sometimes bareheaded) entreating him to stir stir stir (with pox on't when tis too short:) and though the bowler be a Gentleman, yet there he may meet with attendant rookes, that sometimes will be his betters six to foure,

&c.

or two to one. I doe not know any thing fitter to be compared to bowling than woo-ing, or louers, for if they doe not see one a-nother in two dayes, they will say, God Lord, it is seuen yeares since wee saw each other, for Louers doe think that in absence time sleepeth, and in their presence that he is in a wild gallop: So a Bowler, although the ally or marke bee but thirty or forty paces, yet sometimes I haue heard the Bowler cry rub rub rub, and sweare and lye that he was gone an hundred miles, when the Bowle hath beene short of the blocke two yards, or that he was ten short a thousand foot, when he is vpon the head of the Jacke, or 10 or 12 foot beyond. In a word, there are many more seuerall po-stures at bowles, than there are ridiculous idle tales or iests in my booke. Yet are the bowlers very weake stomacht, for they are euer casting: sometimes they giue the stab at the ally head, but God bee thanked no bloud shed, and sometimes they bestow a pippin one vpon the other, but no good apple Ile assure you. The marke which they aymes at hath sundry names and epithetes. as a Block, a Jack, and a Mistris: a Block because of his birth and breeding, shewing

by his mettle of what house hee came; a Jacke, because he being smooth'd and gotten into some handsome shape, forgets the house he came of, suffering his betters to give him the often salute whilest hee like Jacke sauce neither knowes himselfe, nor will know his superiors. But I hold a mistresse to be the fittest name for it, for there are some that are commonly termed mistresses, which are not much better then mine aunts: and a mistris is oftentimes a marke for every knaue to haue a fling at, every one striues to come so neere her that he would kisse her: and yet some are short, some wide, and some ouer, and who so doth kisse it may perhaps sweeten his lips, but I assure him it shall neuer fill his belly, but rather empty his purse. So much for bowling: that I feare mee I haue bowled beyond the marke.

(98)

A Minister riding into the west parts of England, happened to stay at a village on a Sunday, where he offered kindly to bestow a Sermon upon them: which the Constable hearing, did aske the Minister if he were licenced to preach? yes, quoth he, that

that I am, and with that hee drew out of a bag his Licence, which was in Latine. truly, said the Constable, I understand no Latine, yet I pray you let me see it, I perhaps shall pick out here and there a word: No good sir, quoth the Minister, I will have no words pickt out of it, for spoyling my Licence.

(99)

A Clinch.

A Country man being demanded how such a River was called, that ranne through their Country: he answered that they never had need to call the River, for it always came without calling.

(100)

A Fellow having his booke at the Sessions, was burnt in the hand, and was commanded to say, God save the King: the King, said he, God save my Grandam, that taught me to reade; I am sure I had beene hanged else.

A toy to mocke an Ape.

IN Quéene Elizabeths dayes there was a fellow that wore a breech in his hat, like a tooth-drawer, with a Rose and Crowne and two letters: this fellow had a warrant from the Lord Chamberlaine at that time to travell with an exceeding braue Ape which he had; whereby he gat his living from time to time at markets and fayres: his Ape did alwayes ride vpon a mastiffe dog, and a man with a drum to attend him. It happened that these foure travellers came to a towne called Looe in Cornwall, where the Inne being taken, the drum went about to signifie to the people that at such an Inne was an Ape of singular vertue and quality, if they pleased to bestow their time and money to see him: now the townsmen being honest labouring Fishers and other painfull functions, had no leisure to waste their time or coyne in Ape-tricks, so that no audience came to the Inne to the great griefe of Iack-an-Apes his master: who collecting his wits together, resolued to aduenture to put a trick vpon the town, whatsoeuer came of it; wherevpon he tooke

pen

pen, inke, and paper, and wrote a warrant to the Mayor of the towne as followeth.

Theſe are to will and require you, and euery of you, with your wiues and families, that vpon the ſight hereof you make your perſonall appearance before the Queenes Ape, for it is an Ape of ranke and quality, who is to bee practiſed through her Maieſties dominions, that by his long experience amongſt her louing ſubiects, he may be the better enabled to doe her Maieſty ſeruice hereafter; and hereof faile you not, as you will anſwer the contrary, &c.

This Warrant being brought to the Maior, hee ſent for a ſhoomaker at the fartheſt end of the towne to read it: which when he heard, hee ſent for all his brethren, who went with him to the towne Hall to conſult vpon this weighty buſines. Where after they had ſate a quarter of an houre, no man ſaying any thing, nor any man knowing what to ſay; at laſt a young man that never had borne any office, ſaid, Gentlemen, if I were fit to ſpeake, I thinke (without offence, vnder correction of the Worſhipfull) that I ſhould ſome decide this buſines; to whom the Mayor ſaid, I pray good neighbour ſpeake, for though you never did

beare any office here, yet you may speake as wisely as some of vs. Then sir, said the young man, my opinion is, that this Apecarrier is a gybing, scoffing Knaue, and one that doth purpose to make this towne a iesting mocking stocke through the whole kingdome, for was it euer knowne that a fellow should be so impudent audacious as to send a Warrant without either name or date, to a Mayor of a towne, to the Queens Lieutenant, and that he with his brethren, their wiues and families, should be all commanded to come before a Iack-an-apes? My counsell is that you take him and his Ape, with his man, and his dogge, and whip the whole messe or murrinall of them out of the towne, which I thinke will bee much for your credit if you doe.

At which words a graue man of the towne being much moued, said, My friend you haue spoken little better then treason: for it is the Queenes Ape, and therefore beware what you say; you say true, said maister Mayor, I muse who bade that sawcy fellow come into our company, I pray thee my friend depart, I thinke you long to haue vs all hanged. So to bricke hee was put out of the doores, for they were no com-

pany

pany for him. Well now what is to be done in this matter? Marry (said another Senior) we see by the Breech in the mans hat that he is the Queenes man, and who knowes what power a knaue may haue in the Court to doe poore men wrong in the Country, let vs goe and see the Ape, it is but 2 pence a peece, and no doubt but it will be well taken, and if it come to the Queenes eare, shee will thinke vs kinde people that would shew so much duty to her Ape. what may she thinke we would doe to her Bears if they came hither: besides it is aboue 200 miles to London, and if we should be complained on e fetched vp with Pursuants, whereas now euery man may escape for his 2 pence, Ile warrant it would cost vs 10 groats a peece at the least. This counsell passed current, and all the whole droue of the townsmen, with wiues and children, went to see the Ape who was sitting on a table with a chain about his neck, to whom master Mayor (because it was the Queens Ape) put off his hat, & made a leg, but Iacko let him passe vnregarded. But mistris Mayoresse coming next in her cleane linnen held her hands before her belly, and like a woman of good breeding made a low curtsie

whilſt Iacke (ſtill Court-like) although reſpected not the man, yet to expreſſe his courteſie to his wife he put forth his paw towards her, and made a mouth, which the woman perceiuing, ſaid, Husband I doe thinke in my conſcience that the Queenes Ape doth mocke me: whereat Iacke made mo fher mouth at her, which maſter Mayor eſpying, was very angry, ſaying, Surrah, thou Ape, I doe ſee thy laucineſſe, and if the reſt of the courtiers haue no more manners then thou haſt, then they haue all bin better fed than taught: and I will make thee know before thou goeſt from hence that this woman is my wife, an ancient woman, and a midwife, and one that may be thy mother for age.

In this rage maſter Mayor went to the Inne doore, where Iack-an-Apes tutor was gathering of money, to whom he ſaid, Sir, doe you allow your Ape to abuſe my wife? No ſir quoth the other, not by any meanes: truly, ſaid the Mayor, there is witneſſe enough within that haue ſeene him make mops and mowes at her, as if ſhe were not worthy to wipe his ſhoes, and I will not ſo put it by. Iackes tutor replyed, Sir, I will preſently giue him condigne punishment:

ment: and Kraigh the tooke his Flowery blade, his Whip, and holding his Ape by the chaine, he gave him halfe a dozen jerks which made his teeth dance in his head like so many Virginall Jackes: which maister Vapor perceiving, ran to him, and held his hands, saying, Enough, enough, good Sir, you have done like a Gentleman, let mee entreat you not to give correction in your wrath: and I pray you and your Ape after the Play is done, to come to my house and sup with me and my wife.

(102)

This Tale I writ on purpose to sticke in the teeth of my proud squeamish nice critical Reader.

A Countryman brought his wives water to a Physician, saying, God morrow to your Worship, maister Confusion; Physician thou wouldest say, said the other: truly, said the fellow, I am no Scholler, but altogether unlearned, and very hungry, & I have here my wives water in a pottle pot, beseeching your maistership to cast it: So the Physician tooke the water, which having put into a urinall and viewed it, he said My friend, thy wife is very weak: truly

truly, quoth he, I thinke thee be in a presumption: a consumption thou wouldst say, said the Physician; I told you before (the fellow replyed) that I doe not understand your allegant speeches. Well, quoth the Doctor, doth thy wife keepe her bed? No, truly Sir, said he, she sold her bed a fortnight since: verily, quoth the Doctor, she is very costive: Costly said the man, your Worship sayes true, for I have spent all that I have upon her almost. Said the Doctor, I doe not say costly but costive: and I pray thee tell me, is she wise or bound? Indeed Sir, said the man, she is bound to me during her life, and I am bound to her: yea but I pray thee said the Doctor, tell me in plaine termes how she goes to Stole? truly, said the fellow, in plaine termes shee goes to Stole very strangely, for in the morning it is so hard that your Worship can scarce bite it with your teeth, and at night it is so thin that you might eat it with a spoone.

(103)

GOod fellowes having well washed their wits in wine at a Taverne, one of them was very importunate to be gone; to whom another of them said, I pray thee

be

be patient, talke no more of going, for if thou wilt sit still but a little, thou shalt find that we shall all be gone, though we stay here.

(104)

A Ideot, who dwelt with a rich Vnkle he had, was by a Courtier begged for a fole, which the foole perceiuing ran home to his vnkles Parlour which was fairely hung with Tapestry hangings, and in every one of the hangings was the figure of a foole wrought: So the Fole watching his opportunity that no body was in the parlour, hee tooke a knife and cut the foles pictures out of every hanging, and went and bid them in a bay-mow, which when his vnkle came in and saw, he was very angry, demanded who had spoyled his hangings? Ah vnkle, said the Ideot, I did cut out all the foles, for there is a great man at Court that hath begged mee for a fole, and he would haue all the rich foles he can heare of; therefore did I cut them all out of your hangings, and I haue hid them where I thinke hee will not find them in haste.

(105) A

(105)

A Fellow being ſcolded at by his wife, would make her beleeue her would drowne himſelfe: and as he went toward the riuer, his Wife followed him, deſiring him to forbeare, or at the leaſt to let her ſpeake with him; will, quoth he, ſpeake briefly, for I am in haſte; then husband ſaid ſhe, ſeeing you will drowne your ſelfe let mee intreat you to take my counſell, which is, that you caſt not your ſelfe into this ſhallow place here, for it will grieue my heart to ſee how long you will bee a dying: but goe with me a little war, and I will ſhew you a deepe place, where you ſhall be diſpatched preſently.

(106)

A Woman in Scotland lay dying, to whom her husband ſaid, Wife now thou art about to leaue me alone, I pray thee tell mee with whom ſhall I marry. She replyed, are you in haſte to marry before the breath be out of my body, then marry the diuels dam: not ſo wife, ſaid he, I haue had his daughter already, and if I ſhould match with his mother too, then I ſhould be guilty of inceſt.

(107) There

(107)

There was a Gentleman that was of a very hasty disposition, so that he would seek and chase almost at all things, and bee seldome pleased with any thing, and withall was a great Tobacco taker, and as one time he beat and kick'd his man, the fellow ran from him, and told one of his fellowes that he thought his master was transformed into Brawne, for he was all Choller, and that he thought the reason of his kicking was, because he drank Coltsfoot among his Tobacco.

(108)

A Doctor of Padua lustily asked a waterman if he might goe well by water over the River Po, the fellow told him yea: but the Doctor when he came to the water side and saw it was a little rough weather, was very angry, and said, You Watermen are the veriest knaves in the world, for to gaine sixpence you care not to cast a man away: to whom the Waterman replyed, Sir, it appeares wee are men of a cheaper function and better conscience then you, for you sometimes will not cast a man away under 40, 50, or 100 crownes.

(109) One

(109)

One borrowed a cloak of a gentleman, and met one that knew him, who said, I thinke I know that cloake: it may be so, said the other, I borrowed it of such a gentleman: the other told him that it was too short: yea, but quoth he that had the cloake, I will have it long enough before I bring it home againe.

(110)

A Poore womans husband was to bee hanged at the towne of Lancaster; and on the execution day she intreated the Shrieve to bee good to her and stand her friend: the Shrieve said that hee could doe her no hurt, for her husband was condemned and iudged by the Law, and therefore he must suffer. Oh good master Shrieve, said the woman, it is not his life that I aske, but because I have farre home, and my mare is old and stiffe, therefore I would intreat you to doe me the favour to let my husband be hanged first.

(111)

One came into a College in an University, and asked how many Fellowes belonged to the house: another replyed,

pyed, that there were more good fellowes then good Schollers two to one.

(112)

A Fellow being drunke was brought before a Justice, who committed him to prison: and the next day when he was to be discharged, he was to come to the Justice againe, who said to him, Sirrah you were not drunke the last night? your Worship sayes true, sayd the fellow. Yea but you were drunke, said the Justice, and you did abuse me, and said I was a wise Justice: the fellow replyed, If I said so, I thinke I was drunke indeed, and I cry your Worship mercy, for I will never doe you that wrong when I am sober.

(113)

A Spaniard having but one eye chanced to meet a man in the field; where drawing both their Rapiers, the other man with an unfortunate thrust strucke out the other eye of the Spaniard, whereat the blind man suddenly cast down his Rapier, saying, Buenas noches, which in the Spanish tongue is goodnight.

FINIS.

This Author hath newly caused all his works (being above 60) to be printed into one Volume, the names of all which Workes are set downe in this following *Catalogue*,

Taylors Vrania.
The life and death of the Virgin Mary.
The whip of pride.
Against cursing and swearing.
The fearefull Summer.
Christian Admonitions.
The travell of twelvepence.
The Armado.
The Beggar.
Taylors Goose.
Iacke a Lent.
Taylors penniless Pilgrimage.
The Sculler.
The Dolphins danger.
The Cormorant.
A Sea [illegible] by Captain Wedall.
The praise of Hempseed.
Taylors Pastorall.
Prince *Charles* his welcome from Spaine.
An English mans loue to Bohemia.
Three weeks and three [illegible] [illegible].
Taylors farwell to Bohemia.
Six Oregory Nonsense.
A very [illegible] voyage.
The great Q Foole.
A voyage to the West.
The [illegible] of the senesse.
Taylors Motto.
Odcombs complaint.
Coriats resurrection.
Laugh and be fat.
Coriats newes.
A Bawd.
A Whore.
A Theefe.
A Hangman.
The vnnaturall Father.
Taylors reuenge.
Penners defence.
A cast over the water.
The praise of cleane linnen.
The Watermans suit.
Wit and Mirth.
A Dog of Warre.
The world runs on Wheeles.
The nipping or Inipping of a [illegible].
A Chronicle from Brute.
A Briefe from the Conquest.
A Farwell to the Trever hotels.
The marriage of the Princesse [illegible].
An Elegie for King *Iaques*.
An Elegie for the Earle of Nottingham.
An Elegie for the Earle of Holdernesse.
An Elegie for the Bishop of Winchester.
An Elegie for the Duke of Richmond.
An Elegie for [illegible] Esquire.
The sum of the Bible in verse.
The summe of the Booke of Martyrs in verse.
The Churches deliurances.
[illegible] [illegible] peace with France.
The Acts and exploits of Wood the great Eater in Kent.

FINIS.